and information as may be required.

Prices of Gas from Oman and Iran

2941. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gas from Oman and Iran is going to be supplied through pipelines is likely to be much higher in terms of price compared to our gas price by 230 per cent;

(b) what is the justification of Oman and Iran for asking such high price of gas;

(c) what is the price of gas offered by Oman and Iran and what is our local price;

(d) what is the quantum of gas supply estimated from Oman and Iran pipe lines and what is the short fall today to meet registered demand of gas;

(e) what are the names of gas reserves discovered and the rate of exploitation currently; and

(f) whether coal gasification is being planned or there is any significant potential for coal gasification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The price of the gas to be imported from Oman is being negotiated with the Oman Oil Company. No price offer has as yet been received from Iran.

(d) The Oman Oil Company has proposed the supply of about 57 MMSCMD of gas to India. The estimated shortfall by the year 2000 A.D. is around 78 MMSCMD.

(e) As against the balance recoverable reserves of 700 BCM as on 1.4.1993, the current production of gas is 49.87 MMSCMD.

(f) ONGC has taken up an R&D project for Underground Coal Gasification. The techno-economic feasibility of Underground Coal Gasification is yet to be established.

Upgradation to SAG posts in Railways

2942. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals under Government's consideration for upgrading nearly 150 S.A.G. Grade posts to General Managers grade by the Indian Railways;

(b) if so, whether Group 'A' and Group 'B' posts are likely to be surrendered in return; and

(c) if not, whether it is a fact that Group 'A' and 'B' officers would be stagnated and how the stagnation is proposed to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The aspect of stagnation is taken into account in the periodical cadre reviews of gazetted services.

स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों को स्थायी/अस्थायी पास जारी किया जाना

2943. **श्री रामदेव भंडारी:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या उनका मंत्रालय उन स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों को, जिन्होंने अपने

त्याग के बदले पेंशन तथा ताम्रपत्र लेना स्वीकार नहीं किया था, सारे देश में यात्रा करने के लिए स्थायी/अस्थायी रेल पास जारी करता है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है तथा इस संबंध में क्या प्रक्रिया अपनाई जाती है और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के०सी० लेंका) : (क) और (ख) केवल केन्द्रीय राजस्व से स्वतंत्रता सैनिक सम्मान पेंशन योजना के अंतर्गत पेंशन पाने वाले स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों/उनकी विधवाओं को ही स्वतंत्रता सेनानी लेखे में कार्ड पास जारी किए जा रहे है । बहरहाल, उन स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों के मामले में, जो केंद्रीय राजस्व से पेंशन पाने के पात्र तो हैं परन्तु जो उसे लेने से इन्कार कर देते हैं, विशिष्ट मामलों में ही गृह मंत्रालय के अनुदेशों के आधार पर कार्ड पास जारी किये जाते है।

Upgradation of staff of Hindi Organisation in Railways

2944. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that staff of Hindi Organisation in Indian Railways have been treated as Ministerial staff;

(b) if so, whether they have extended the benefit of continues upgradation as given to the ministerial staff; and

(c) if not, what steps are being taken to offer the opportunities of upgradation to staff of Hindi Organisation in Indian Railways who are working for a very long time in the same grade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) to (c) Though the staff of Hindi Organisation on Indian Railways belong to Ministerial category, their staffing pattern does not conform to that of the Ministerial cadre on Zonal Railways. Accordingly, upgradation given to the Ministerial Cadres on Zonal Railways is not admissible to the staff of the Hindi Organisation. For Staff working Hindi Organisation on Indian Railways, Ministry of Personnel happens to be the nodal Ministry. Accordingly, a separate upgradation exercise was done in May 1987 for these staff, in consultation with Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions when all the posts of Hindi Assistant Grade-III in scale Rs. 1200—2040 were upgraded to Rs. 1400—2300 and redesignated as Hindi Assistant Grade-II.

मुम्बई और पुणे में अलग-अलग स्थानीय रेलगाड़ियों का चलाया जाना

2945 **श्री सुशील कुमार संभाजीराव शिंदे** : (क) क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मुम्बई और पुणे में अलग-अलग स्थानीय रेलगाड़ियां चलायी जा रही हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार मुम्बई और पुणे के बीच कुछ स्थानीय रेलगाड़ियां शुरु करने के विषय में विचार कर रही है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के०सी० लेंका) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) जी, नहीं ।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता :

(घ) परिचालनिक कठिनाइयों तथा तकनीकी तंगियों के कारण ।